REMARKS

By this amendment, claims 1, 6, 8, and 9 are revised to place this application in condition for allowance. Currently, claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, and 10-13 are before the Examiner for consideration on their merits. Claims 4 and 9 are withdrawn as being directed to a non-elected species.

First, the informalities noted on page 2 of the Detailed Action of July 13, 2009 have been addressed in the revisions to the claims. Therefore, these objections should be removed.

Second, claim 1 is revised to further define the end stop resource (20) as having a rib with a free end. The inclusion of rib does not introduce new matter since it is found in claims 8 and 9. Defining a free end is also not new matter since it is shown in the drawings, see for example, Figures 3-5.

Third, and turning now to the rejection, the Examiner newly rejects claim 1 based on United States Patent No. 4,916,767 to Uetake et al. (Uetake). The key issue in the rejection is the Examiner's interpretation that the end stop resource is the same as the part of the molding of Figure 6 of Uetake that extends between the opposing top and bottom and between the two openings, i.e., portion D in the Examiner's representation of Figure 6. While Applicant does not agree that this portion of the molding of Uetake functions in the manner recited in the claims, the rejection is no longer valid when considering that the end stop resource is now defined as a rib having a free end. There is no free end in portion "D" of Uetake and the molding of Uetake can no longer be considered to be the same as that now claimed. Therefore, the rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) must be withdrawn.

This leaves the Examiner with the choice to rely on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) or withdraw the rejection and pass the application onto issuance. The only real choice is to withdraw the rejection since there is no legitimate reason to support an allegation of obviousness. The rejection of claim 1 based on Uetake is an extremely technical one, with the inventive molding and Uetake being clearly different from each other. This difference is magnified by the revision to claim 1 and there is no reason to modify Uetake to include the claimed free end-containing rib. Any rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) would be pure speculation on the part of the Examiner and such a rejection could not be sustained on appeal.

In light of the above, claim 1 is clearly patentable over the cited prior art. This means that its dependent claims are also in condition for allowance.

Applicant also contends that the species election requirement for claims 4 and 9 should be withdrawn since claim 1 is still generic to the embodiments of Figures 3-5. The rib with its free end is found in each embodiment. Upon allowance of the generic claim, Applicant is entitled to a reasonable number of species and this would include claims 4 and 9. Thus, all claims should be allowed as a result of this amendment.

Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to examine this application in light of this response and pass all pending claims onto issuance.

If the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful in expediting the allowance of this application, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at 202-835-1753.

The above constitutes a complete response to all issues raised in the Office Action dated April 13, 2009.

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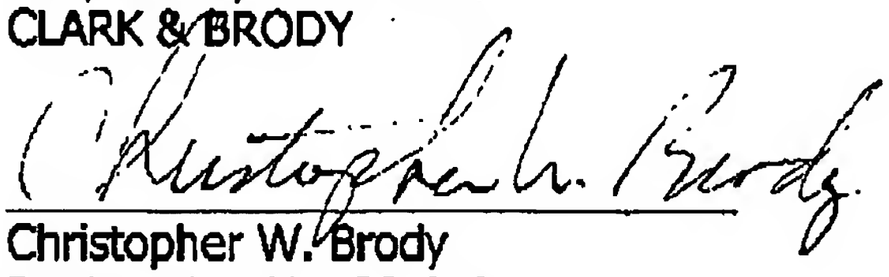
Application No.: 10/565,192

A petition for a one month extension of time is made. Please charge the extension of time fee ($65.00) and any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1088.

Respectfully submitted,
CLARK & BRODY



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